PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/331,674

substitute pages could not be directly substituted into the translation of the original application).

Also, claims 6, 7 and 9 have been amended to avoid any improper multiple dependency issue.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, allowance of this application is now believed to be in order, and

such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be

best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to

contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 27, 2000

Bruce E. Kramer

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